

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: 3/12/13

Draft

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Longacre at 6:03.

TAC members present: Greg Bettencourt, Patty Fuller, Charlotte Gorton, Helene Finger, Bruce Hilton (Commission liaison), Carolyn Huddleston, Dorothy Jennings, Kathy Longacre, Dallam Oliver-Lee, Sheila Patterson, Paul Winkler

Staff: Larry Iaquinto

Public: none

2. Public comment. none

3. Review notes: prior meeting of January 8, 2013

Accepted as presented.

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Report to TAC – Dorothy Jennings

Dorothy attended the January meeting of the Commission and was given no direction from the Commission.

5. Update on OTO's - Senior Planner Shaun Cooper

Shaun made the following report covering many ongoing projects.

Bob Jones Trail - The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies have been completed by SWCA, reviewed by Caltrans and final comments are being incorporated into the final documents. These studies are being incorporated into the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), by the consultant (PMC). The Administrative Draft EIR is currently under review by staff.

Octagon Barn Staging Area – County Parks is coordinating with the Land Conservancy on the Octagon Barn site improvements that will serve the Bob Jones Trail staging area. A grant proposal will likely be submitted, in the summer, for the second round of Prop-84 Storm Water funding, for the construction of a low impact development parking lot. Work continues with the Land Conservancy and Real Property Services on a formal agreement outlining the shared use of the site and the proposed improvements.

Avila to Hartford Pier Path – This project is currently under contract for the Opportunities/Constraints Analysis and Preliminary Design. A second community workshop, to present the preliminary design, is planned for spring, 2013. The workshop will be held at the Coastal Gateway Building at Port San Luis.

North County Salinas River Trail – This is a multi-agency cooperative effort to complete a master plan for the Salinas River trail between Santa Margarita and San Miguel. The master plan design consultant (KTU + A Planning and Landscape Architects) is working with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG).

Templeton to Atascadero Connector Trail – This segment of the Salinas River Trail will connect the community of Templeton to the City of Atascadero with a Class I multi-use pedestrian/ bicycle pathway. Preliminary engineering will begin once the North County Salinas River Trail Master Plan is complete. Funding for the

preliminary engineering includes \$200,000 in Transportation Enhancement grant funding, and \$40,000 in matching funds from Parks PFF's. This preliminary engineering phase of the project will be going to the Board of Supervisors for approval on March 19.

Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector – An application for a coastal development permit is being prepared for submittal to the County Planning Department and the California Coastal Commission.

Cave Landing Trail - An application for a coastal development permit has been submitted to the County Planning Department and the California Coastal Commission. \$1,400,000 in grant funding has been secured for construction completion. The Board of Supervisors accepted the Cave Landing/ Pirates Cove offers of dedication for the property at their February 26th meeting.

Sapwi Trail Extension- Environmental review is completed. Volunteers will complete work as time and weather conditions allow.

Santa Margarita to Garden Farms Trail Easements- Property owner and County are working on the terms of the Easement Agreement (agreement has been reviewed and edited by Parks Staff, County Counsel, and Real Property Services). SLOPOST hired a surveyor to prepare legal descriptions and exhibits of the trail easements to be included as part of agreement. On February 22, County staff walked the easement site with the property owner, surveyor and representative from SLOPOST/TAC. Surveyor is working on documents and should have them ready for review this month.

Vineyard Trail- The County, Vineyard Estates HOA and the adjacent property owner are working on coordinating the east west trail connecting Paseo Excelsus to Malvasia Court. County staff will be attending a Vineyard Estates HOA meeting, on March 26, to discuss the project.

6. **Staff Report- Larry laquinto**

Santa Margarita Lake. Trail improvements along rocky Trail were completed by the CCC on 2/13. The Sapwi Trail - Extension between Sapwi and White Oak rough is underway by 3CMB and Atascadero Horseman

Vineyard Trail Improvements. An application has been sent in by staff for work to be done by CCC to mitigate some of the erosion on the vineyard trail along Paseo Excelsus. Regarding the vineyard trail extension (county trail easement) between Paseo Excelsus and Malvasia Ct. located on the Vineyard Estates open space parcel, I met with property owner Stephen Olson and 4 associates regarding his property and trail improvements.

El Morro Bike Trail - ECOSLO had a volunteer work day in Los Osos to provide clearing of the over grown vegetation along the trail.

Bob Jones Bike Trail - Some fence repair and painting in the Ontario PL and drainage improvements continue. Staff will be filling in some pot holes.

Lopez Lake - Staff cleared a down oak tree from Rocky Point Trail

7. **State Parks Report- Brooke Gutierrez**

Kathy reported that hikers are now using the alternate route offered by the new Oates Peak Trail, which is 2.2 miles of trail in Montana. The Oates Peak Trail is a re-routing of a tough out and back trail. The new trail creates 2 loops with the Valencia Trail, a more pleasant experience. The trail needs to winter over this year and perhaps a second year before being officially opened. However, hiking is being allowed.

Greg will be making a presentation about the Oates & Valencia Peak Trails at the State Parks Natural History Museum in Morro Bay on Thursday March 14. He will be sharing information on the origins of the project, the design parameters used to address sustainability and multi-use issues, and the build process. He will show the final map of the project and share details about opening the new trails and closing the old ones. It was suggested that Greg repeat his presentation to TAC members at its May meeting.

8. Immediate goals and objectives.

a) Anza Trail/ North County – Dorothy Jennings

Anza Trail Newsletter. The National Park Service, who administers the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, will no longer be printing its quarterly Noticias de Anza. This decision was made to reduce costs. Instead the newsletter will be posted online. The NPS will continue to distribute the monthly Anza Trail e-news to share events and volunteer opportunities. You can sign up to automatically receive this at the Anza Trail website www.nps.gov/juba

Salinas River Corridor Master Plan. The second workshop for the Anza Trail – Salinas River Corridor Master Plan project is scheduled for Monday March 18th from 6-9 PM in the Atascadero city hall. see salinasrivertrail.com

New Charolais Trail in Paso Robles. In February there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Charolais Trail that connects to the city's Salinas River Trail and the dedication of a river sculpture. This new area borders Larry Moore Park and acts as a trailhead for the neighborhood. The Charolais Trail was constructed in a no longer needed road right-of-way.

Garden Farms to Santa Margarita. In February, I joined Parks personnel - Curtis Black, Shaun Cooper and Don Mellon - Rob Rossi, a surveyor, and a Garden Farms resident to walk the future corridor of this trail. We discussed minor variations along the route that the surveyor will be detailing in a working document that will become a final route. Mr. Rossi is gifting a multi-use trail easement that will eventually connect the two communities. SLOPOST is generously paying for the survey work.

Toad Creek Trail. The Templeton Area Advisory Group (TAAG) recommended to Public Works that any future in-stream flood control project located within the Toad Creek Trail corridor (PRE) should also include a constructed public trail. This and other recommendations are in TAAG's Toad Creek Watershed Report. It will soon be posted online at www.taaqinfo.org

Eagle Ranch. The city of Atascadero has given the green light for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Eagle Ranch development. The cost to prepare the EIR is expected to be about \$500,000. The city is wrestling with the costs of services and other issues that are suppose to be addressed in the EIR. Currently the ranch is entirely outside Atascadero city limits and borders the Los Padres National Forest.

Parks & Recreation Element and IRWMP. The SLO County Flood Control and Conservation District recently began its process to update their 2007 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The District is seeking more public involvement this time around. As the update process proceeds this is the time to assure the IRWMP recognizes that some future IRWMP projects may include a recreation component per the PRE.

b) Anza Trail/ South County – Bruce Hilton and Dallam Oliver-Lee

Dallam presented the following report.

Anza Trail. January 29, 2013: SLO County Board of Supervisors voted to direct staff to discontinue efforts to complete preliminary studies and take no further action

to purchase three parcels near Edna. Some of the land was bought privately and easement was donated to SLO county. Eric Meyer, San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition, and other supporters are asking for a plan or EIR to know what direction to buy more land and donate more easement for the county to be used for Anza Trail.

As of March 6, 2013: Anza Trail South County was requested 8 times in SLOCOG's FY 2013/2014 Unmet Transit Needs and Bike & Pedestrian Improvement list of requests. It is the #1 overall requested item for Bicycle & Pedestrians Requests for SLO County.

SLO County and State Parks: Trails in Montana de Oro State Park, Santa Margarita Lake, and Eagle Rock Trail in El Chorro Regional Park was added to Google Maps in February 2013.

City of San Luis Obispo - Overall Trails and Parks: Talked with Eric Meyer, Planning Commissioner, and Mayor Jan Marx after a SLOCOG meeting about having someone of a official capacity to contact and fill out the Google Street View Partner form to request Google to do Google Street View of the trails to get greater presence of the trails to help attract people. Currently awaiting confirmation of the form being completed and submitted to Google.

SLO County and California State Parks - Overall Trails and Parks: Recommending that someone of a official capacity to fill out the form for Google Street View Partner for the county parks, Montana de Oro State Park, and Pismo Beach State Park to get more presence of the trails and parks through Google Street View.

Link to Google Street View Partner website:

<http://maps.google.com/help/maps/streetview/partners/>

Google Street View Partner generated lively discussion with an interest by TAC members to check it out. Bruce suggested he would have an opportunity to initiate conversation about this at a Parks Commissions Field Trip scheduled at the end of the week, March 15th.

c) Coastal Trails Update - Nancy Graves

Nancy sent in the following report.

Coastal Trail Projects in the County can be found in Shaun's excellent report.

Avila to Harford Pier...watch for the public workshop in March.

Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector...Coastal Development Permit.

Cave Landing Trail... Coastal Development Permit.

d) Bob Jones Trail - Helene Finger

The City of SLO received a \$600,000 grant for construction of an extension of the trail that starts at Prado Rd so that it is connected to, and across LOVR. Construction is expected to occur this summer.

The City of SLO has a public workshop on March 26th to discuss alternatives for completion of the missing link of the trail from LOVR to the Octagon Barn.

The County is finalizing the EIR for the section of trail from the Octagon Barn to Ontario Road. The last item being addressed is the addition of language to discuss the improved safety for bicyclists with the construction of a Class I trail. The draft EIR should be out in the next month.

The Parks Commissions will be having a field trip later this week to look at the Bob Jones Trail

e) Nipomo Pathways & Woodlands Trail – Patty Fuller and Sheila Patterson,

Ride Nipomo

In Nipomo a parcel of land south of Eucalyptus Road between Camino Mariposa and Indiana Way has been clean up with the help of Ride Nipomo members and a number of concerned citizens. The total of volunteers was over 40. Also, with the Assistance of Sheriff Tim Olivos and six trustees the land is trash and debris free.

This parcel of land is an easement to county trails. The parcel has not yet accepted by the county.

Volunteers filled two 40-yard roll off dumpsters. Three trailers (4 tons each) and one trailer filled with 40 tires was hauled off to the dump. Not to mention a ¾ ton pickup truck filled with electronics.

Prior to the clean up several members took inventory of the debris sites. Some barbed wire fences were down and set upright for horse and rider safety. A small lean-to wood structure (breeding ground for criminal activity) in the middle of the parcel was demolished and all lumber was removed.

Other items removed; Hot tub, bathtub, several couches and large furniture items, plus clothing and rags.

We are working hand and hand with SLO County Sheriffs Department to combat this problem. A number of addresses from discarded mail were recovered and turned over to the Sheriff. The Sheriffs Department will conduct follow-up investigations.

f) Templeton Easements / Vineyard Trail – Paul Winkler

Vineyard Trail Volunteers, (VTV), have been very active in the past (2) months with the help the help of the CCC. The CCC's came through, in a big way, sending a volunteer group up to the Vineyards Trail and helping us spread (6) piles of mulch.

Vineyard Estates HomeOwners Association (HOA) and Vineyard Trail Maintenance:

1. Shaun Cooper was a great help getting me large maps to shown the HOA Board that the Vineyard Trail is SLO County Trail Easement on HOA land. This was invaluable in getting the HOA Board to understand that the HOA has a vested interest to participate in the long-term maintenance of this area.
2. The HOA Board has agreed to increase the Landscape Budget by about (\$5,700.00) on an annual basis to help in this activity.
3. I will meet with a representative of the C's and Jim Hickok to discuss an annual maintenance plan and request a quote from the C's.

There was discussion about HOA liability and insurance should the HOA decide to adopt or not adopt this trail. Ride Nipomo shared their experience on trail maintenance situations. That is maintaining trails using handwork versus heavier equipment such as tractors. Discussion is expected to continue.

Phase #1 Trail on Lot #96

1. The funds needed to install this trail have been Identified:
 - a. SLOPOST - \$3,000.00
 - b. Templeton Rec Foundation - \$5,000.00 + professional services; to be defined.
 - c. Paul and Katie Winkler - \$2,000.00
2. HOA Meeting, 26 March 2013, representatives from SLO County and owners of lot#96 will be in attendance to discuss trail and general plans

g) Atascadero Area Trail Connections – Jonalee Istenes

See Anza Trail /North County report above.

- h) SM Lake Loop Trail and extension trail – Greg Bettencourt/Kathy Redden
This topic was covered in reports made earlier by Shaun and Larry.

- h) Lopez Lake Trails- Doug Tait

Doug sent in this report.

The California Conservation Corps performed a minor re-route on a steep section of the Turkey Ridge trail. This re-route will provide trail users with a safe alternative to the aging railroad tie steps. Park staff plans an additional switchback as a long term solution on this portion of trail.

Trail sign inventory is in process. New signs to clarify trail routes will be installed, and vandalized signs will be replaced.

- j) Volunteer work parties – Carolyn Huddleston

ECOSLO will be holding a Hike-a-thon fundraiser during the month of June. The Hike-a-thon will begin with a kick-off celebration on National Trails Day, June 1st at a local park; and end with a celebration on Saturday, June 29th, which will include fun, food, and prizes. Our hikers will raise funds for ECOSLO in the weeks leading up the kick-off, and all during the month of June as they rack up the miles hiking our local trails. Look for more information on our website at ecoslo.org. We hope everyone will come out and help us have fun, while raising needed funds to support and protect our local trails and environment!

9. Approval of Trail Committee Applications. No new applications.

10. On going Action Items:

- . Update on trail connectivity with agencies - SLOCAPRA's October meeting
- . TAC Goals and Objectives for the coming year – July 1 through June 30
- . Protecting Trail Easement Conditions: prior to final map and following occupancy. Issues include safeguarding easement conditions of development and encroachments.
- . Possible joint staff meeting they could discuss with Planning and Public Works how to find out what could be done and how TAC might get involved in recommending solutions to the protection of easements.
- . Discuss development of a policy establishing Clearance Requirements for County Rights of Way (11/03).
- . Establish inventory, determine maintenance and signage needs for trails.

11. New Business - none

12. Old Business

a) Access to the Garcia Wilderness

Bruce reported that the Los Padres ForestWatch featured this issue in a bulletin sent email to their supporters. ForestWatch is seeking individuals that used the Arroyo Grande-Huasna Road (County Road #2301) prior to 1972. It is the route to the old Agua Escondido campground constructed under the federal WPA, a public work program in the 1930s. Response was better than expected including information about a 1966 lawsuit regarding this very same access issue. To donate

to a Huasna Access Fund, contact [Jeff Kuyper <info@lpfw.org>](mailto:info@lpfw.org) or donate through their website www.lpfw.org

b) **Equestrian Parking on Grand Ave.**

No report at this meeting.

13. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:42 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday May14 at 6 PM